

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action dated October 31, 2007.

Claims 13, 14, 16-19 are amended, claims 1-12 and 20-35 are canceled, and no claims are added; as a result, claims 13-19 and 36 remain pending in this application.

Claims 13-19 are amended to change the claim dependency.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1, 3-4, 8, 12-13, 21-24, 26 and 28-29 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Tabatabaei (U.S. Patent 6,784,740).

Claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 12, and 21-24, 26, and 28-29 are cancelled.

Claim 13 is amended to depend from an allowed independent claim.

Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 7, 11 and 14 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tabatabaei (U.S. Patent 6,784,740).

Claims 7 and 11 are cancelled.

Claim 14 is amended to depend from an allowed independent claim.

Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tabatabaei (U.S. Patent 6,784,740) in view of Buchanan et al. (U.S. Patent 4,550,342).

Claim 5 is cancelled.

Claims 6, 9-10 and 16-17 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tabatabaei (U.S. Patent 6,784,740) in view of Takahashi et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0128558).

Claims 6, 9, and 10 are cancelled.

Claims 16 and 17 are amended to depend from an allowed independent claim.

Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 25, and 27 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tabatabaei (U.S. Patent 6,784,740) in view of Khorram et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0190650) and further in view of Karsh et al. (U.S. Patent 4,641,324).

Claims 2, 25, and 27 are cancelled.

Claims 33-35 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tabatabaei (U.S. Patent 6,784,740) in view of Chen et al. (U.S. Patent 6,691,203).

Claims 33-35 are cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 36 was allowable over prior art of record.

Claim 20 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 20 is cancelled.

RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

In the interest of clarity and brevity, Applicant may not have equally addressed every assertion made in the Office Action, however, this does not constitute any admission or acquiescence. Applicant reserves all rights not exercised in connection with this response, such as the right to challenge or rebut any tacit or explicit characterization of any reference or of any of the present claims, the right to challenge or rebut any asserted factual or legal basis of any of the rejections, the right to swear behind any cited reference such as provided under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, or the right to assert co-ownership of any cited reference. Applicant does not admit that any of the cited references or any other references of record are relevant to the present claims, or that they constitute prior art. To the extent that any rejection or assertion is based upon the Examiner's personal knowledge, rather than any objective evidence of record as manifested by a cited prior art reference, Applicant timely objects to such reliance on Official

Notice, and reserves all rights to request that the Examiner provide a reference or affidavit in support of such assertion, as required by MPEP § 2144.03. Applicant reserves all rights to pursue any cancelled claims in a subsequent patent application claiming the benefit of priority of the present patent application, and to request rejoinder of any withdrawn claim, as required by MPEP § 821.04.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' attorney at (612) 373-6911 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

December 20, 2007

By

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being filed using the USPTO's electronic filing system EFS-Web, and is addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 20th day of December 2007.

Name

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Signature

[Signature]